

CLAIM AMENDMENTS

1 - 3. (canceled)

4. (currently amended) The packing according to claim 10 ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the packing layer [(4b)] of larger surface area has a surface area that is 2 to 10 times greater than the surface area of the other layers [(4a)].

5. (currently amended) The packing according to claim 10 ~~, characterized in that~~ wherein the [(two)] packing layers [(4b)] of higher surface area are arrayed in pairs in which they are mounted directly against each other.

6. (original) The packing according to claim 5 ~~, characterized in that~~ wherein, between the pairs of layers [(4b)] of greater surface area [,] there are 1 to 10 ~~, preferably 3 to 6~~ adjacent of the layers [(4a)] with a smaller surface area.

7. (currently amended) A stacked packing according to claim [(s)] 10 ~~, characterized in that~~ wherein the packing layers [(4b)] with the larger surface area are made of materials that have perforations ~~, in particular expanded metal or wire mesh.~~

8 - 9. (canceled)

1                   10. (new) A stacked packing for a heat-exchange or  
2 mass-transfer column, the packing comprising  
3                   a horizontal packing part formed of a plurality of  
4 upright layers, some of the layers of the lower part being of  
5 substantially greater density and having a greater surface area  
6 than others of the layers.

1                   11. (new) The stacked packing defined in claim 10  
2 wherein the layers are transverse to the horizontal.

1                   12. (new) The stacked packing defined in claim 11  
2 wherein the layers are perpendicular to the horizontal.

1                   13. (new) The stacked packing defined in claim 11  
2 wherein the layers extend vertically through the part.